

THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO..... DATE.....

APPROVED.....MAYOR

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACT
LEGISLATION, 2023 – H5724 AND 2023 – S328, MAKING VITAL RECORDS
ACCESSIBLE TO LOCAL REGISTRARS AND GRANT LOCAL REGISTRARS THE
AUTHORITY TO ISSUE CERTIFIED COPIES OF CERTIFICATES AND RECORDS

Resolved that,

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, vital records (births, deaths and marriages) tell the story of the people of Rhode Island and their families; but they also tell the stories of the cities and towns in which they lived and the state of Rhode Island as a whole; and

WHEREAS, easy access to those records is essential for the people who need them in their everyday lives, and also to ensure that the histories of those families, our cities and town and the state are not lost to posterity; and

WHEREAS, over the years access has been provided by the state, in conjunction with the cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, new technology being implemented to make access easier, may have the unintended consequence in one sense to make access more difficult by preventing cities and towns from issuing certified copies of historic records (death records over 50 years and birth and marriage records over 100 years) and any amended records in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, reducing access would be a disservice to our residents and a hindrance to our ability to maintain the history of our cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the general assembly, 2023 – H5724 and 2023 – S328, both entitled “AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – VITAL RECORDS,” which requires that the division of vital records to ensure the vital records are

1 accessible to the local registrars and grant local registrars the authority to issue certified copies of
2 certificates and records prior to the records being transferred to the state archives; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Warwick City Council believes that this legislation is in the best interest
5 of the City of Warwick and desires that the General Assembly enact this legislation into law.
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7 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Warwick
8 respectfully requests the General Assembly to enact legislation, 2023 – H5724 and 2023 – S328,
9 making vital records accessible to local registrars and grant local registrars the authority to issue
10 certified copies of certificates and records.
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to the
13 City’s Representatives and Senators in the Rhode Island General Assembly.
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15 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.
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17 SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCALLISTER

18 COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL
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